

COMRADES ALL, IN DEATH HOUSE

Former Inmates Tell How Sing Sing's Doomed Men Spend Their Time.

BECKER IS POPULAR

Former Police Official Is "Mayor" of Little Colony Whose Lives Are to Be Snuffed Out.

New York, Dec. 12.—(Specials, watching, waiting, an indefinable air of foreboding mingled with an attempt to concentrate the gaze on the ray of hope—this is the atmosphere which now permeates the death house at Sing Sing. It is only an item of news to the rest of the world that the appeals judges at Albany are expected to announce the result of their deliberations in a few days or weeks, but to the four young products of New York's East Side and to the non-willed police lieutenant who hired them to slay his gambler enemy, it is the one supreme fact of existence which blots out all other things as the light of the sun blots out the stars.

The jokes and the curses are fewer; the shouted checker games are not so eagerly debated; the voices raised in hymns at evensong are stronger and more soulful; the callous-featured guards are affected and pace their way about the hateful corner of the prison with an even greater taciturnity than usual.

Have Seen Four "Pass Out." Four men have Becker and his accomplices seen pass through the "little green door" to the execution chamber. The gunmen are placed in cells from which they have an unobstructed view of this dread portal. Becker is unable to see it, but he sits in a fearful position. The head of his cot is against the wall on the other side of which stands the chair with its straps, bars, and electrodes. The four men who have "gone across" Becker from death with a few feet of his head.

But from this it is not to be concluded that the life of the death cell inmates is also sorrow, all despair. They have a little democracy, they have a little life. They have their own language and customs. Their privileges are many of them barred to other Sing Sing convicts. They have their recognized captain, or president, who is now a young fellow named Lawrence J. Spohr and Maurice Lusitig, convicted men who were recently, and by the writings of Molinoux, who spent many months and years in this shadow of death.

Becker Makes Friends. Before Becker came the men in the condemned cells had some of them decided to snub him because he had been a "cop." Becker, like most newcomers, was silent in his cell for several days, after he arrived. Becker had been a military musician. He was entertaining the death house with a selection on the harmonica, when he heard a voice from next door:

"That's very nice, old man. Very nice." Spohr made a hesitating reply, addressing him as "Mr. Becker." The ice was broken and soon every one was calling him "Charlie."

One evening Becker asked Spohr if he knew "The Church Across the Way." They got up a quartet of murderers to sing this old-fashioned melody. Becker was busy with his harmonica. He sang it over and over again. Molinoux, a Gopher band leader, would usually follow each rendition by howling out "they come," or some other thing. Becker would read a few chapters from the Bible every night, while the rest listened in silence.

One diversion was the singing of their own parodies on songs, putting in their guards and fellow-prisoners as characters. Becker also, according to Spohr, started an anti-awakening crusade, but gave it up after the prison guards had more frequent offenders than the condemned men.

Becker is Liberal. Becker is extremely liberal, buying food and many other things for all his prisoners, who have grown to like him and call him "mayor." A frequent pastime of Becker and the four gunmen is to curse out together Jack Rose and other informers who put them where they are.

Becker was in the death house for some time before the four gunmen arrived. Spohr gave this account of the breaking of the ice between Becker and the court:

"You know, we all have checker boards and checker pieces in our cells. We play games by calling the numbers from one to the other. Every spot is named. The gunmen had been there a couple of days when Whiteley Lewis accepted a challenge from a man on our side of the death house to play a game. Whiteley called out in his curious accent:

"From for to survive." Lefty Louis and Gyp the Blood began to imitate him and Whiteley cursed them. Then Mulroney began to call "Na-a-a," referring to their "getting Whiteley's goat," and everybody in the place, including Becker, took up the joke. Becker and the gunmen all laughed together.

"Later a prison official came in wearing a rose. One of the gunmen asked another what kind of a rose it was. "A Jack Rose," cried Becker. After that there was no more formality."

Spohr laid emphasis on the brighter side. But Lustig said:

Scenes of Sorrow. "There was one scene to which I could never become accustomed. This was the last parting of the relatives with the man who was to pass through the little green door. The shades were carefully drawn, but we could not shut out the cries and the screams that rang through the death house. Oh, it was awful.

"I will never be able to forget the depths of despair sounded by the agonized cries of fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, wives, and sweethearts went by us weeping and in hysterics. They were carried out fainting. They

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REBEL ROUT AT TAMPICO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

When an appeal is denied there is mystery in the death house about the new date of the now quite hopeless prisoner's taking off. No verbal announcement is made to him, but one Saturday, he stepped from his weekly bath, the "fortunate one," as his comrades call him, is ordered into a new cell.

"Here," wrote Roland B. Molinoux, "he receives everything new—new bedding, new clothes from head to foot, and his knickknacks, pipe, tobacco, boxes, books, and the package of letters from home, ragged and blurred from reading and rereading—after all have been carefully searched. But he knows that he has received something else—his unuttered notice that one week from the following Monday he will be moved again. No questions are ever asked; he has seen it all before. But should he ask, the only reply would be: 'I don't know.'"

Here comes in some of the curious and precise death house customs. The comrades for whom "The Little Green Door" will swing open a week hence is distinguished above all others. So far as they can manage it he is to have his own way in everything, promptly and without argument. If he asks for a song or a story, or wants to play checkers—by the calling out system—there is instant acquiescence. All quarrels are completely forgotten. Every comrade presses delicacies upon him.

During all that last week the "death watch," shared by two keepers, sits in front of his cage every night. Meanwhile he and his comrades endure that greatest torture of all—the parting with dear ones.

Gives Away Trifles. For the last night the unwritten code prescribes everything. At midnight a keystone of everything that the other occupied cells distributing the tobacco, pipes, and other trifles belonging to the comrade who is about to go, who calls out as each presentation is made:

"Thank you." The colloquy ends thus, in each instance:

"Good-by. I hope you have luck and get out."

"Thank you. Good-by and God bless you."

Of these responses Molinoux wrote: "They are now as they were ten years ago; they will be the same twenty years from now."

There is no sleep for anyone. But there is no more talk. They hear him tearing up letters from his family and friends, resolutely after one last reading.

Long before the dawn they can faintly hear, or feel, the vibrations of the dynamo that is being made ready to supply the death house with electricity. The priests come, and the murmuring of Latin. The drawing of the cot curtains follows.

Molinoux lay flat on his cell floor and looked up at the curtains. He said:

"I saw the priest bless and kiss him; hold up the cross before his eyes; bid him have faith, and then back out of the cell. 'He,' who was soon to be 'it,' followed me. I heard the procession march rapidly into the next room. 'Bang,' said the hungry little door as it closed."

Then all wait in silence. Nothing happens until the curtains. The brilliant electric lights suddenly grow dim for a moment. It is the deflecting of the death current. Another murder has been appeased.

CAPITAL ENGINEER SUBMITS SEWER PLANS

Harry Stevens Proposes Montgomery County Improvements—Washington, Md. Dec. 12.—Harry Stevens, of Washington, engineer in charge of the construction of a sewerage system for Silver Spring, this county, has submitted plans to the county commissioners, and the same have been approved.

Loans to marry have been issued by the clerk of the Circuit Court here to Robert C. Frank, of Washington, and Miss Clara Cleveland Cox, of Madison County, Virginia, and George Caleb Marston, of Burlington, this county, and Miss Carrie Elizabeth Henson, of Laurel, Md.

The funeral of Charles E. Rorer, for many years a resident of this vicinity, who died suddenly of heart failure at the home of his brother, Frank Rorer, in Washington, took place this afternoon. Services were conducted by Rev. Thomas A. Houghton-Burke, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, and interment was in Rockville Union cemetery.

DISPATCHES FROM ADMIRAL FLETCHER TELL OF SERIOUS CONDITIONS IN TAMPICO

Dispatches received at the Navy Department yesterday revealed a condition of affairs at Tampico more serious and menacing to Americans and other foreigners than had previously been appreciated by even administration officials. Admiral Fletcher frankly stated that the situation seemed to be growing worse, and reported such emergency measures as he had taken for the protection of life and property.

Admiral Fletcher reported that he had moved all the refugees who had been gathered in the confines of the neutral zone he established on the beach, from the shore to the battle ships lying outside the harbor, and he had ordered all Americans to leave the city. All the women and children of the foreign colony have been removed to places of safety on the ships, though a few of the men remained on taking their chances and remaining in Tampico.

From 6 o'clock Friday afternoon the gunboats Tacoma and Wheeling were engaged in taking the 100 refugees gathered on shore out to the battle ships New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Virginia, lying outside. This work was accomplished by midnight. The weather conditions being favorable. In view of the fact that the ships of the American squadron were already supposed to have on board all the refugees to whom accommodations could conveniently be given, it is assumed here that the situation must have become much more threatening to induce the admiral to pack hundreds of other refugees on the battle ships.

Admiral Fletcher, in reporting what he had done for the safety of the Americans and other foreigners at Tampico, asked that public announcement be made that no foreigners have been injured during the fighting at Tampico.

He also has informed the Navy Department that no foreign property has been injured or destroyed by either side. The admiral requested the department to announce for him that it was quite impossible for him to undertake to answer private messages regarding the safety of ships and water front.

The situation, so far as the comfort of the refugees is concerned, will be greatly relieved today, it is believed, when the army transport Sumner and the Ward liner Morro Castle are due to arrive there. The transport was ordered from Galveston Friday night, and sailed for Tampico yesterday. The liner has been chartered by the British and German naval commands.

Soldiers Are Hanged. Admiral Fletcher stated that in the name of humanity he had protested to the commanders of the rebel and federal forces against their practice of killing prisoners. About sixty-five, the admiral stated, have already been put to death by hanging or shooting, both sides being about equally guilty in this respect. The federalists Friday morning hanged three revolutionists in full view of the ships and water front.

The latest dispatch received from the admiral was dated at 1 o'clock yesterday morning. At that hour, he said, fighting was still going on, with skirmishing between the federal and revolutionary forces. He reported that the federal gunboat Bravo is forcing the position of the constitutionalists. Federal reinforcements are reported to be on the way from Vera Cruz in the gunboats Agre and Vera Cruz. The indications are, it is reported, that the revolutionists are likely to succeed eventually in their attempt to take the city.

Appeal from Spaniards. Appeals for help were received at the State Department yesterday on behalf of the Spanish residents of the city of Chihuahua, recently occupied by the revolutionist leader, Villa. Villa has issued a proclamation declaring that all Spaniards remaining in Chihuahua after ten days will be executed. They are not to be permitted to take their property with them. It is reported, in answer to the appeal for protection, forwarded through Consul Edwards, Juarez, Secretary Bryan replied that effort would be made to secure for the Spaniards the same degree of protection as for other foreigners. He instructed that representations be made to Villa, demanding proper treatment of

SEEKS FRENCH AID FOR HUERTA

Adolfo de la Lanza Sails for Paris to Ask Loan

New York, Dec. 12.—In the hope of procuring French aid to finance the tottering Huerta government, Adolfo de la Lanza, Mexican minister of finance, and his secretary, Salvador Echagarray, sailed on the steamer Olympic today.

The pair left Mexico City several weeks ago. When the vessel reached Havana they vanished, went to New York by rail. They have been in this city two or three days. They kept to themselves while here, their only known visitor being Robert B. Honeyman, a lawyer.

Bellevue, Ohio, Dec. 12.—Miss Clara Baker's budding romance was blasted today when she received a letter from a New York man in answer to a note she had written on an egg five years ago. He only wanted to know the age of the egg.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—A. T. Prentice laughed so hard at a moving picture he was stricken with apoplexy and died.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—Carol Krasnostski drew a line of 40 when neighbors testified that he was a wealthy real estate broker, were followed last night by execution of the sentence upon him for failure to pay the money demanded. Cuccio was shot and killed as he walked through an Upper East Side street. The assassin escaped.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12.—A document certifying that the late John D. Rockefeller was a witchcraft in the early days of Massachusetts was a feature of the sale of autograph letters of the Eliot Danforth collection here. The document was signed by many prominent men and women of the time and brought \$60.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 12.—A municipal Christmas tree was practically assured of witchcraft in the early days of Massachusetts was a feature of the sale of autograph letters of the Eliot Danforth collection here. The document was signed by many prominent men and women of the time and brought \$60.

Seattle, Dec. 12.—A citizens' committee that has obtained the use of abandoned buildings to shelter 1,000 unemployed men in Seattle has sent telegrams to Representatives Frank Buchanan, of Illinois, and William E. Humphries, of Washington, in an effort to obtain the use of the buildings for the National Guard of the State of Washington which are stored here.

Chicago, Dec. 12.—With the addition of Chicago's "front yard" skating rink to Grant Park in the business district, this city will have seventy-two public ice rinks this winter.

Tampa, Fla., Dec. 12.—A hydro-aeroplane transportation line for public service will be in operation between this city and St. Petersburg, Fla., after January 1, according to arrangements just completed.

Winnipeg, Dec. 12.—Twenty-six elections on local option were held in Saskatchewan this week, and complete returns today show the temperance forces carried only six towns.

Springfield, Ill., December 12.—Gov. Dunne has issued a proclamation prohibiting the shipment into Illinois of dairy cattle from the following States: New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Wisconsin, Fla., after January 1, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Montana. The purpose is to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis in this State.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 12.—The first conviction under a new State law concerning fraudulent advertising of merchandise was secured today, when William H. Meloney was fined \$20. He advertised a sale of second-hand goods at his home. The complainant testified to buying for \$9 a rug advertised to be worth \$20 and which later was found to have been bought at a department store for \$12.50. Judge Clark imposed a minimum fine, as this was a test case.

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TAFT HITS AT MOOSE; DWINDLING, HE SAYS
Former President, at Pennsylvania Club Dinner, Says Progressives Are Losing Strength.

FINANCIER UTTERS WARNING
New York, Dec. 12.—Henry F. Davison, of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., speaking at the Pennsylvania Society dinner tonight, took a new view of agitation against the trusts. He said:

"First of all, the present-day man of affairs must be wide awake to the fact that this rapidly-increasing movement of the last twenty, and especially the last five years, is not the blind expression of dissatisfaction and unrest that many consider it to be.

"In business again we can see to what general end this new feeling is directed. Its purpose is not, as surface appearances have sometimes made us almost believe, to tear business down, to thwart and ruin industry. It has been rather to force all business corporations, that are of such magnitude or importance as to affect directly the great body of the people, to be conducted more openly, with more scrupulous fidelity to the interests both of the public and of the thousands of small investors who really are the owners of these corporations."

TAFT SLAPS AT MOOSE.
Former President Taft said he regarded it as a kindly compliment, "remissive in its nature," that he was asked to respond to the toast, "United States." Everybody listened when the former President spoke of the "selfish motives still manifesting themselves in some individuals," but he said that they were always reactionaries and never progressives. Then he added, with eyes twinkling:

"The line when drawn between the good and bad will be found to be the same line that marks the distinction between the progressives, who are the only good, and the rest of the world, who are the only bad; and one of the features of the present-day situation is that while generals of the progressives are still with their flashing swords and brilliant uniforms, holding conspicuous counsels and shrinking from the public gaze, the rank and file of the army seem to be rapidly becoming a disavowing view, a result doubtless to be attributed to some evil, subterranean effort of the reactionaries, who would retard human progress."

COTTON POOL MEN FINED.
Five Defendants Under Sherman Law Pay \$4,000 Each.
New York, Dec. 12.—Five defendants in the Federal suit against brokers who formed a cotton pool in 1909 today pleaded nolo contendere before Federal Judge Grubb and were fined \$4,000 each.

The defendants, who were charged with violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, were Col. Robert M. Thompson, of New York; Eugene G. Scates, of Dallas, Tex.; William F. Brown, and Frank Hays, of New Orleans, and W. H. Holschild, of Woodville, Tex.

Child Grubb, in fining the defendants, said he did so on the same grounds upon which a \$4,000 fine had been imposed on James A. Fatten, of Chicago, several months ago.

Man and Bride in London.
London, Dec. 12.—Former King Manuel of Portugal and his bride, Princess Victoria of Hohenzollern, arrived here today from St. Nazaire, Germany, where the latter has been seriously ill.

"I WANT TO LIVE," HER PLEA

Florence Schenck, Dying, Prays for Life.

New York, Dec. 12.—Nearing the gates of death, Miss Florence Schenck, who eloped seven years ago with Charles Henry Wilson, manager of the stables of Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, and has since led a spectacular career, today devoted her few hours of consciousness to praying that her life may be spared.

"Oh, I want to live," moaned the young woman, as she pleaded with the physicians and nurses to do all in their power to bring about her recovery.

Several local clergymen have offered to call upon Miss Schenck, but she has steadfastly refused to see a preacher. "I feel certain God will let me live. I don't want to die. I must live," she said, in her moments of consciousness.

Dr. Edward T. Teague, who is attending Miss Schenck, tonight said that the condition of the patient is critical, and that there is not the slightest chance for her recovery. He said death might come at any moment.

EUTHANASIA SUBJECT OF PLAY.
French Playwright Produces Startling Drama.
Paris, Dec. 12.—Euthanasia is the subject of a startling play by Gabriele d'Annunzio, which was produced tonight at the Porte Saint Martin Theatre.

The famous European wizard of the stage got his idea from the discussion in America a year ago as to whether or not it was right for man of woman to kill man or woman when the victim was suffering from an incurable disease.

The play pictures the struggle of an unsophisticated, romantic young girl with the supposedly perfectly normal modern man.

The girl, Aude, is seeking to avenge the death of her father, who, she knows, was killed by his dearest friend, Dagon. Dagon has married the widow of the man he killed, the mother of Aude.

The girl in the final act attempts the death of her father, who, she admits he killed her father, and declares it was a deed, noble and humane, done at his friend's request, to relieve him from lifelong suffering.

The horrified girl, utterly unable to understand such a theory, is about to strike, when the mother, fearful that her daughter might suspect her of complicity in the killing of the father, rushes in and stabs Dagon through the heart.

Possess Seek Bandit.
New Orleans, Dec. 12.—Two sheriffs' posse today began an organized hunt for an unmasked bandit who held up the Southern Railway "Sunset Express" on the outskirts of this city early today, fatally injuring Wells-Fargo Express Messenger James Arnold and then took a bag of money estimated to contain between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The bandit was a white man.

Sun Cult Priest's Sentence Delayed.
Chicago, Dec. 12.—Because Federal Judge Mack is in New York today, the sentencing of Otoman Zar-Adusht Han, high priest of the sun cult, convicted of sending obscene matter by express, was postponed until Monday.

Accounts Inspected; Kills Self.
Corning, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Just as a post-office inspector began examining the books of the postoffice at Cameron Mills, Steuben County, today, James A. Smith, the postmaster, shot and killed himself.

'MONA LISA' THIEF HAS JAIL RECORD

Fingerprints Establish Identity Beyond Doubt, Police Say.

THE NATION IS JOYOUS
France Thanks Italy for Recovering Stolen 'Masterpiece'—Painting Is Guarded.

Paris, Dec. 12.—The finger prints found on the glass frame from which "La Gioconda" was stolen in the Louvre tally exactly with the anthropometrical record of Vincenzo Perugia at the prefecture of police and establish his guilt beyond doubt.

Perugia has served two terms in prison, having been sentenced to one day's imprisonment in 1908 for attempted theft and to a week's imprisonment in the following year for assault. The police today made a thorough search of the hotel where he lived and in which the masterpiece was concealed for two years, while the police of two hemispheres sought in vain.

Infinite precautions are to be taken to guard the painting against mishap or malversation while it is being brought back from Florence to Paris. Henri Marlot, director of the National Museum, will go to Florence immediately as representative of the under secretary for fine arts. He will take charge of "La Gioconda," and thank the Italian government for its restoration. M. Marlot personally will bring the painting back to Paris.

Joy Over Recovery.
One hears everywhere, in all grades of society, expressions of joy and satisfaction at the restoration of the missing masterpiece. The working people are quite as enthusiastic as those of greater cultivation, for it is probable that they derive greater pleasure from the museum of Paris than any other class. The Louvre is overflowing with visitors, and the "La Gioconda" is being viewed with them and for "La Gioconda" they undoubtedly had special admiration.

M. Viviani, minister of public instruction, sent a telegraphic message of gratitude to the Italian government, minister of public instruction, for the recovery of the "immortal masterpiece due to the genius of one of the noblest sons of Italy."

Premier Doumergue, before this, had instructed the French Ambassador at Rome to express the thanks of the French people to the Italian government.

The Ministry of Fine Arts was officially informed today that "La Gioconda" will be taken from Florence to Rome on Monday to be publicly exhibited for six days in accordance with the demand of a number of members of the Italian Parliament.

BIG GUNS READY FOR PANAMA.
Ten Mortars and Carriages Loaded on Ship for Italian.
New York, Dec. 12.—There was a war-like scene on the North River front today while ten mortar guns and carriages for the Panama Canal fortifications were being loaded upon the Panama Railroad steamer Cristoforo Colombo, which will sail for Colon on Monday.

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